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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/801,527	03/08/2001	Andreas Geil	10191/1760	7170

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EXAMINER

GILMAN, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 05/14/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/801,527

Applicant(s)

GEIL ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander Gilman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, recites "...a contact set ..." in line 3, and "a plurality of contact elements..." in line 4.

It is unclear if the plurality of contact elements is related to the contact set or they are non-related.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. Claims 1-5 are, as they can be understood due to the 112 problem, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lundergan.

Lundergan (US Pat. No. 3,748,633) discloses a multipole electrical connector comprising:

a contact set with a plurality of contact elements having a contact section and a connecting section,

wherein each contact section (21) is formed together with each connecting section (17) from a single-layer stamped grid.

With regard to claims 2-4, Lundergan discloses that each contact section having a fork shape and includes a first limb (19), a tie bar, and a second limb (21).

With regard to claim 5, Lundergan discloses that the second limb includes a detent element (23).

2. Claims 1-5 are, as they can be understood due to the 112 problem, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bouley.

Bouley (US Pat. No. 3,748,633) discloses a multipole electrical connector comprising:

a contact set with a plurality of contact elements having a contact section and a connecting section,

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wherein each contact section (35, 38) is formed together with each connecting section (29) from a single-layer stamped grid.

With regard to claims 2-4, Bouley discloses that each contact section having a fork shape and includes a first limb (35), a tie bar (30), and a second limb (38).

With regard to claim 5, Bouley discloses that the second limb includes a detent element (32).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundergan in view of Francis.

Lundergan discloses all of the limitations except for the opening in the counter-contact section used as the counter-detent element.

Francis (US Pat. No. 3,609, 597) discloses the opening (18) in the counter-contact section used as the counter-detent element (col. 2, lines 20-21).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the Lundergan's the counter-contact section with the opening used as the counter-detent element, as taught by Francis, to prevent disengagement of the connection.

2. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundergan in view of Francis as applied to claim 1, 6 above, and further in view of Zintler et al.

Lundergan when modified by Francis discloses all of the limitations except the mating connector is a part of relay or a fuse.

Zintler et al (US Pat. No. 5,823,798) disclose the contact section (10, 11) for connecting relays (8) or a fuse (9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the Lundergan-Francis counterpart connector as a part of relay or a fuse, as taught by Zintler et al, to utilize the connector structure for relay or fuse aggregates.

3. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundergan in view of Harting et al.

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Lundergan discloses all of the limitations except for the partially extrusion-coating of the contact elements.

Harting et al. (US Pat. No. 6,196,853) disclose partially extrusion-coating of the contact elements (col. 1, lines 22-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to manufacture the Lundergan connector using extrusion-coating of the contact elements, as taught by Harting et al, as an alternative method of manufacturing.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 02/19/2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding rejection of claims 1-8 are under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, Applicants assume (Remarks, p. 3, lines 26-29) that "claim 1 clearly means ...the contact set ... refers to the mating connector as shown in Fig. 1 and 2." Based on this statement, Applicants request to withdraw 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection

That elucidation cannot be accepted since:

A. If the contact set is a feature of the mating connector, why this set is claimed as a part of the multipole electrical connector (claim 1, "A multipole electrical connector ... comprising:
a contact set ...");

B. According to the specification (page 2, lines 13-17), the contact set (14) is a part of the multipole electrical connector (11), not the mating connector (12).

The basic arguments of Applicants regarding rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are also based on the same assumption that the contact set is a feature of the mating connector.

Hence, the Applicants' arguments are not deemed persuasive and do not overcome either rejections.

Conclusion

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Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Gilman whose telephone number is (703) 305-847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m - 7:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7322 for regular communications and (703) 308-7322 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

AG
May 8, 2002


P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
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